

## **Important Milestones: Your Baby at Eighteen Months**

How your child plays, learns, speaks and acts will give you important clues about your child's development. Developmental milestones are things that a majority of children can do by a certain age.

Look at what your child has reached by the end of 18 months and discuss this with your child's doctor next time you see them and find out what to expect next.

### **What most babies do at this age:**

#### Social and Emotional

- Likes to hand things to others to play
- May have temper tantrums
- May be afraid of strangers
- Shows affection to familiar people
- Plays simple pretend, such as feeding a doll
- May cling to caregivers in new situations
- Points to show others something interesting
- Explores alone but with parent close by

#### Language/Communication

- Says several single words
- Says and shakes head "no"
- Points to show someone what he wants

#### Cognitive (learning, thinking, problem-solving)

- Knows what ordinary things are for; for example, telephone, brush, spoon
- Points to get the attention of others
- Shows interest in a doll or stuffed animal by pretending to feed
- Points to one body part

- Scribbles on his own
- Can follow 1-step verbal commands without any gestures; for example, sits when you say “sit down”

#### Movement/Physical Development

- Walks alone
- May walk up steps and run
- Pulls toys while walking
- Can help undress herself
- Drinks from a cup
- Eats with a spoon

Act early by talking to your child’s doctor if your child:

- Doesn’t point to show things to others
- Cant walk
- Doesn’t know what familiar things are for
- Doesn’t copy others
- Doesn’t gain new words
- Doesn’t have at least 6 words
- Doesn’t notice or mine when a caregiver leaves or returns
- Loses skills they once had

Tell your child’s doctor or nurse if you notice any of these signs of possible developmental delay for this age.